GODMANCHESTER

Urban District Council.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

HUNTINGDON:

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1905.

TO THE

GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 1,659 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river, with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

It is a purely agricultural district with a tendency to fall in the matter of population, there being a difference of 78 between the Census of 1891 and 1901.

The House Accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses and the house accommodation is generally improving. Some of the old cottages are now empty. There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled. At the present time there are no Bye-laws compelling people to submit plans to your Surveyor before building new dwelling-houses.

Sewers and Sewerage.—There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage. The sewers discharge into two brooks which coalesce at a distance of from 400 to 500 yards and form one stream which empties itself into the Hemingford head of the river Ouse, about 1½ miles distant.

Very little fœcal matter passes through the sewers as the pail system is almost universally adopted.

The sewers are well flushed with water from the river from the Godmanchester head, and by means of water pumped into a tank at the upper end of the system by a ram at the old water mill, which supplies the motive power. The old brick sewers are being replaced by sanitary pipes from time to time.

The pail system is adopted for the removal of excrement, which is carted out of the Borough in your own carts and by your own men, and disposed of in a field far removed from any possible risk of well pollution. House refuse is also removed in the same way and placed in the same field, except when occupiers choose to cart it to their own fields or allotments outside the Borough proper. The removal of house refuse is much facilitated by the use of sanitary dust-bins which are being generally adopted. The refuse is removed once a week or oftener if required.

Water Supply is from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley; this is liable to pollution. Notices have been posted on all the pumps advising the inhabitants to boil their water before using it for drinking purposes.

Three samples of water were sent for analysis during the year, and were all pronounced unfit for drinking purposes. The wells were cleaned out in each case.

Lodging Houses, Slaughter-Houses, Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Factories (of which only one exists now, a Flour Mill) are regularly visited by the Inspector who also periodically inspects the schools.

Abatement of Nuisances.—Your Surveyor gives notice as to the abatement of nuisances, and if not attended to reports to your Authority.

Notification of Infectious Diseases has been in force since the first passing of the Act.

Isolation Hospital.—There is no Isolation Hospital. I wish your Authority could see your way to join Huntingdon so as gradually to secure the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital for the use of the immediate neighbourhood. Two Third Class Carriages have been secured for the reception of cases of Small Pox and placed in a very suitable situation.

Disinfection is carried out by your Inspector principally by means of the Formic Aldehyde Lamp.

Inspections—In December last I made a systematic Inspection of the whole District, accompanied by your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. I have made other Inspections when diseases prevailed or when nuisances existed to which my attention had been called. Your Inspector has ordered all insanitary conditions existing to be remedied, and has seen that his instructions are carried out.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

During the year the births of 54 children have been registered, 28 males and 26 females; an average of 26·7 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 29 persons residing in the Borough, and of 2 persons belonging to the Borough who died in Public Institutions outside the Borough have been registered, making a total of 31, a rate of 15·3 per 1000 persons living; only 3 deaths occurred in children under one year of age.

Prevalence of Zymotic Disease.

Ten cases of Zymotic Disease have been notified during the year—one of Erysipelas, two of Enteric Fever, two of Scarlet Fever, and five of Diphtheria.

Diphtheria.

In two of the cases of Diphtheria insanitary conditions existed and were remedied; one of these cases was probably imported. The other three cases were traced to contact with some Londoners who were staying at Hemingford.

Erysipelas.

One case of Erysipelas was notified, insanitary conditions were present and were remedied.

Scarlet Fever.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, both in Adelaide Terrace, and no doubt were contracted in Huntingdon.

Small Pox and Vaccination.

No case of Small Pox was notified, I hope soon re-vaccination will be made compulsory, as in the absence of Small Pox the necessity for re-vaccination is lost sight of.

Enteric Fever.

Two cases of Enteric Fever were notified, one was traced to impure drinking water, and the origin of the second was doubtful.

Diseases of Respiratory Organs.

Five deaths from Diseases of Respiratory Organs were registered, making an average of 2·4 per 1000 persons living.

Phthisis.

Five deaths from Phthisis and other tubercular diseases occurred, making an average death-rate of 2·4 per 1000 persons living.

I should like to make Phthisis a notifiable disease so that directions might be given as to the disposal of the sputum, and that houses might be disinfected after the removal or death of the patients. Disinfection is now carried out where practicable.

Cancer.

Three deaths from Cancer were registered during the year, the average death-rate from the same being 1·5 per 1000 persons living.

Measles.

No cases of Measles occurred.

Diarrhœa.

There was a great freedom from this complaint and only one death occurred from it.

Food and Drugs Adulteration.

One sample of whisky, one lemon cake, one black tea, one mustard, one margarine, and two of milk were analyzed during the year and all found to be genuine.

Mortuary.

A public Mortuary exists.

I append Table 1, Vital Statistics of the whole District and previous years.

Table 3, Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table 4, Causes of, and ages at death during the year,

The Sanitary Inspector's Report.

And the Factory and Workshops Report.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Godmanchester Urban District Council.

Huntingdon, February 23rd, 1905.

SUMMARY OF

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

For the Year 1904.

Public Sewers.—The main outfall sewer has been relaid and extended a distance of 30 yards. The out-let has been trapped and the sewer ventilated.

Public Urinal.—A public Urinal has been provided.

No. of Houses Inspected - - -	200
No. of Re-Inspections - - - -	69
Orders for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises - - - -	69
Houses, the Drainage of which has been improved	21
Earth Closets Repaired - - - -	7
Paving Repaired - - - -	20
Cowsheds Inspected - - - -	9
Lodging Houses Inspected - - -	3
Slaughter Houses - - - -	4
Houses disinfected after illness - -	6

C. MAYFIELD,

INSPECTOR.

TABLE I.—GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED in the DISTRICT				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages				
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 100 Births Registered	Number	Rate*		Number.	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13
1894	2095	69	32·9			28	13·3	4	31	14·79
1895	2095	41	19·5			36	17·18	5	38	18·1
1896	2095	69	32·9	11	159·4	38	18·1	2	40	19·09
1897	2095	65	31·04	10	153·8	34	16·2	3	37	17·6
1898	2095	59	28·1	8	135·5	30	14·3	5	35	16·7
1899	2095	62	29·5	8	129·0	38	18·1	7	45	21·4
1900	2095	62	29·5	17	274·1	39	18·6	8	47	22·4
1901	2017	56	27·76	5	89·28	26	12·89	3	29	14·37
1902	2017	53	26·2	7	132·07	34	16·8	3	37	18·3
1903	2017	57	28·2	6	105·26	29	14·37	3	32	15·9
Averages for years 1894-1903	2071·6	59·3	28·5	9	147·3	33·2	15·98	4·3	37·1	17·5
1904	2017	54	26·7	3	55·55	29	14·37	2	31	15·3

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of Area covered by water), 4659

Total population at all ages..... 2,017
Number of inhabited houses 550
Average number of persons per house 3·8
At Census of 1901.

Public Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—
Huntingdon Union Workhouse. Huntingdon County Hospital.

TABLE III.

GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages	AT AGES.—YEARS.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small Pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria	5		4	1			
Membranous croup ...							
Erysipelas	1					1	
Scarlet fever	2			2			
Typhus fever							
Enteric fever	2			2			
Relapsing fever ...							
Continued fever ...							
Puerperal fever ...							
Plague							
TOTALS	10		4	5		1	

No Isolation Hospital.

TABLE IV.

GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year, 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages						
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Epidemic Influenza ...	1						1
Diarrhœa...	1		1				
Phthisis	3			1	1	1	
Other tubercular diseases	2		1			1	
Cancer malignant disease	3					2	1
Bronchitis	5	1					4
Premature birth... ...	1	1					
Heart diseases	5					2	3
Accidents	1					1	
All other causes ...	9	1				1	7
All causes	31	3	2	1	1	8	16

BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.) ...			
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	9	nil.	nil.
Workplaces	2	nil.	nil.
Homeworkers' Premises			
Totals	11		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—**				
Want of Cleanliness ...	3	3		
Totals	3	3		

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.